



EL ESCALANTE HOTEL

CEDAR CITY · UTAH

Gateway to

BRYCE CANYON NATIONAL PARK

GRAND CANYON NATIONAL PARK

ZION NATIONAL PARK · CEDAR BREAKS

KAIBAB NATIONAL FOREST

5 Dec 1937

Dear Miss Gilpin

Well, my great adventure is ended and in an hour's time I shall be starting back to New York. I think that starting with last Saturday in Colorado Springs, I have had the greatest week of my life. I told you about getting to Bryce Canyon and the two busy days I put in there. Last Wednesday night it snowed and we had 9 inches by morning. I had settled to extend my trip to the Grand Canyon if the weather held. After talking matters over with my young Mormon driver who was a veritable guide, philosopher and friend we thought perhaps the storm might only be a local one or at any rate a temporary one and decided to drive down to Kanab, have lunch and see how the weather shaped, which we did. After lunch we thought the symptoms promising but not yet good enough to go on and as Perry Lodge was a very nice and attractive

little hotel we said we would stay the night and see what the morning brought forth. Friday dawned clear bright and frosty so we set off at 8:15. We could see the mists hanging over the Canyon but hoped they would lift before we got there. The drive through the Kaibab Forest was delightful. The snow on the roads did not exceed 5 inches and we had no troubles. When we got to Bright Angel we found the Canyon full of rolling mist clouds and although we waited an hour we could see nothing. So we went off to lunch at a woodman's shack where two young men live through the winter for maintenance purposes. They looked 'tough guys' but were really very nice people. After lunch we decided to try Cape Royal as the mists were floating down from that direction and we thought it might clear first. It is a 25 mile drive but to our delight we found the Canyon clear there so after doing all that I wanted there we hurried back to Bright Angel as the afternoon was slipping away. There it was largely clear but there was no view westwards as the mist still filled the gorge in that direction. After a hurried cup of tea with our friends we made for Kanab and did the 85 miles in 105 minutes. Our total trip was



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220 miles. I certainly saw the Canyon under conditions that comparatively few travellers can have done.

Next morning was again clear and we were off by 8.15 for Tropic. There we had a perfect day of sunshin and blue sky. The Mount Carmel highway and the Canyon have some marvellous west scenery but it is so narrow and the mountains rise so steeply that it is no easy task to get good photographs. Still I fired off 50 and hope for the best. The drive back to Cedar City in the afternoon light was superb. I should like to spend a week

some day taking colour photographs of
the Utah landscape.

And now I am homeward bound
and looking forward to what my
trip may bring forth.

It has been a great pleasure
to renew my friendship with you
and once again I must thank
you for the many kindnesses
that you showered upon me.

With kind regards

Yours sincerely

J. Dudley Johnston